

ED. C. CAMPBELL, Editor.

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THE NEW PROPOSITION.

The proposition made by a committee of the creditors of the State for a settlement of the debt, brings us face to face with the question, what shall we do?

The Legislature is now in session; it is charged by the people with the duty of accepting or rejecting the offer that has been made. The performance of this duty should not be evaded. The offer is not made to a party—neither to Democrats or Republicans—it is made to the State of Tennessee, an organized political body from which the debt is due. Some people say the question should be settled by the Democratic party. Not so; the Democratic party is not the State. Others say, it should be settled by convention of parties. This is equally a mistake, for political conventions do not represent the State. It should be settled by the Legislature, which under our constitution, as in all other properly organized governments, represents the people.

We do not wish to be misunderstood. Legislatures under our form of government should represent the people. They should represent those from whom all authority comes. But have not the people spoken in plain and unmistakable terms? In 1880 this question was presented distinctly and clearly, 230,000 of the voters against only 57,000 dissenters, said, "This is the question settled. It has been an obstacle in the path of our way to prosperity, it has been the fruitful cause of dissensions, has brought upon us the curse of civilized communities and now in view of great national issues involving the vital principles of Government, threatens to make Tennessee a clapper in determining them."

When the people in most solemn form, at the ballot box, have spoken who shall gainsay what they have said? Who shall dare withstand their deliberate verdict? This Legislature was chosen to carry into effect the will of the people. A few politicians however stand in the way. They undertake to condemn what the people have said and to denounce the supposed action of the people's representatives. They claim that the Legislature has forfeited the respect and confidence of their constituents.

Upon what foundation does this objection rest? It is said three members in the Senate were controlled in their votes upon the 100-3 bill. A committee appointed by the Senate, and a committee hostile to the 100-3 measure has decided otherwise. But conceding the fact to be as charged, does that effect the real question now before us? The Legislature is composed of 100 Senators and Representatives. Suppose that three of that number were at some time controlled in their action by mercenary views, does that fact change in the slightest degree the attitude of the remaining ninety-seven? Does any one question their motives or their conduct? Can any one say truthfully, that they do not represent their constituents? They were elected, or a great majority of them, upon the distinct issue that the State debt should be settled upon terms to be agreed upon between the creditors and the State. The 100-3 bill was enacted pursuant to this declaration of a great majority of the voters. The Supreme Court held that certain provisions of the act were not constitutional, so that bill is relegated to the limbo of the past.

Now, however, another proposition has been made. Our creditors say, that in view of the enormous debt, they will accept 60 per cent. of the entire debt, with a graded interest of 4, 5 and 6 per cent.

The Legislature is now in session, a Legislature chosen to settle the very question of the State debt. What shall it do?

Now those among us who believe that we owe the money have but one course to take, that is to encourage, indeed to instruct the Legislature to accept the offer. We have the money, it is our duty to pay every dollar of it, if able to do so, and here we speak of legal as well as moral obligations.

But, says one, the State does not owe the debt. That is your belief, no doubt honest belief. What then is your duty? The holders of the bonds join issue with you. They say that under the laws that govern in every civilized community they bought the bonds, paid for them at their market value, trusting to the good faith of the people of the State expressed in their acts of legislation and written in the very bonds themselves. We repeat, he says, "according to the usage of all civilized communities, I bought these bonds and paid for them. I expected and had the right to expect that the State of Tennessee would keep its faith and perform its obligations. I paid my money, not your own money went into your State, it helped to construct your railroads, it built your turnpikes, you have them all, repay the money according to your contract." The reply still is, "we got the benefit but do not owe the money and will not pay it," and such has been the conduct of the State, for one half the State now owes is interest, funded and unfunded.

But we ask our objector, "if this difference exists between you and the holder of the bond, submit the question to the courts, not a tribunal in another State, not a tribunal foreign to you and hostile to your interests, but to your own tribunals—chosen to administer your own laws and to decide the contested question by laws of your own making and in existence when the bonds were issued by authority of your own Legislature." What reply can be made to this? How can it be denied to the Legislature authority to settle the question? The fact is, the offer now made is fair; it is equitable, it is generous—certainly no so far, in a measure, it has been

forced by our own delinquencies. Still the offer is before us to accept or reject.

If we accept it, we will have an end to this intestine strife, which for so long has vexed us in a thousand ways. If we reject the offer, we invite dissensions and every kind of trouble in the future. And these will not end with the next canvass. They will constantly recur. In 1881, in 1886, and on to the end of the century. They will still be with us and annoy and harass us, and the end of it will be a payment of the total sum. We sincerely hope the Legislature will accept the proposition, and if they do the people will make it stand.

DEATH OF HON. HORACE HAYWARD.

News came from Knoxville, Wednesday morning, of the sudden death, at 1 o'clock a. m., in that city, of ex-Postmaster General Horace Hayward. He died suddenly of heart disease. His death was entirely unexpected, he being in his usual good health up to the hour of his retirement the night before. The announcement of his sudden demise was received with great regret throughout the entire State, for his superior abilities were acknowledged and admired alike by friend and foe. His loss will be greatly felt among the ranks of the Republican party in this State, of whom he was the greatest leader. He was indeed the greatest of them all, a man of splendid intellect and a brilliant politician. His death will be greatly regretted by all. He would have been 65 years of age the 30th of next August.

A Nihilist plot was discovered in Moscow last Sunday to blow up the Kremlin, the ancient citadel of that city, during the coming coronation of the Czar. The plot was set on foot by a Nihilist who represented himself as a contractor and submitted plans to the authorities for illuminating the palace and citadel with electric lights. Inquiries were instituted and it was discovered that his intention was to blow up the whole of the Kremlin during the festivities attending the coronation. The conspirator, together with three hundred accomplices, was arrested.

We publish on our first page to-day an interesting account of Forrest's celebrated raid on the Tennessee river as read before the Southern Historical Society at Louisville, last month, by Captain John W. Morton of Nashville. In the narrative he takes occasion to mention, in particular, the daring bravery and gallantry of our esteemed fellow citizen, Capt. Frank P. Gracely, who was with Forrest on his famous raid on Johnsonville. The history of the raid is to be concluded at the meeting of the Society this month, when Capt. Gracely's paper on this thrilling war reminiscence will be read, embracing a full account of the attack on and destruction of Johnsonville.

On the first page will be found the division of the counties into Congressional districts as provided by the bill as it was finally passed by the recent session of the Legislature. It will be seen that this Congressional district remains the same as before, with the exception of the loss of the county of Dickson and the addition of Robertson.

BOTH the United States Senators from Georgia are quite ill. Senator Hill is now at Eureka Springs, Ark., but is said to be growing gradually worse with his cancerous affection of the mouth and it is not now believed he will ever recover. Senator Brown is now in Florida for his health which is said to be very bad and his friends are apprehensive he has consumption.

The joint committee of the Legislature recently appointed by the Governor to confer with the creditors of the State in regard to a compromise of the State's indebtedness have gone to New York for a personal conference. They will return to Nashville on Monday and lay the result of their conference before the Legislature.

It is stated that George Hite and wife of Adamsburg, Ky., have instituted suit through prominent attorneys of Russellville, Ky., against the Courier-Journal for \$25,000 damages for alleged libel of the character of Mrs. Hite. The suit grew out of the statement of a correspondent of the Courier-Journal that Mrs. Hite had held improper relations with Jesse James.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, the great philosopher and poet, died at his home, at Concord, Mass., Thursday, of last week, after a short illness of pneumonia. The world is poorer by his death and mourns his irreparable loss, while history will assign to him that high place among American's gifted sons to which his splendid works and rare genius justly entitles him.

THE Nihilists have begun to work their dastardly deeds in this country; explosive packages mailed to Wm. H. Vanderbilt and Cyrus W. Field were found in the New York mails last Saturday. The plot was fortunately discovered by the bursting of one of the packages before it reached the post-office.

THE dead body of Mr. Eliza Harrison, postmaster at Dyer Station, and Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Gibson county, was found in a road about three miles northeast of Trenton, about seven o'clock last Monday evening. It was thought he had been fully dealt with.

Representative Chalmers, of Mississippi, was unseated in the House of Representatives last week by the Republicans, the Greenback men were voting with them, and his seat given to Lynch, the negro contestant.

JACKSON, Tenn., is to have a \$50,000 public building, Congress having appropriated that amount for the erection of one.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our regular Correspondent.)

A LITTLE COLOR IN CONGRESS.—THE PUBLIC PRINTING.—A BIG WHISKY LOBBY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2, 1882. The Republican majority in the House has been increased by two votes. Mr. Lynch, colored, has been given the seat occupied by Gen. Chalmers, of Mississippi, thus reducing the Democratic vote by one, and adding one to the Republican vote. Mr. Lynch is the only representative of the colored race in Congress—the only one that has been in Congress since Senator Bruce, of Mississippi, left the Senate, more than a year ago. The newly-seated congressman is a mulatto of very light color, with a face that is decidedly more Caucasian than African in its features. He argued his own case with great ability, and received the entire vote of the Republican majority and one Democratic vote, that of Mr. Ellis, of Louisiana, and was sworn in with great demonstration of applause from the Republican side of the house. The Democrats lost one of their readiest and most brilliant debaters in General Chalmers.

THE POST OFFICE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House, on Saturday, adopted the report of the Conference Committee on the Post Office Appropriation Bill. A number of members were very decided in the expression, that unless the other great cities were to share with New York the benefit of this service, the appropriation should be struck out altogether. Mr. Robeson, in the course of his remarks, said very distinctly that he voted for the conference report with the understanding that the other great cities besides New York were not to be deprived of their share of the appropriation, and if the Postmaster-General should do this he would violate the spirit and intent of the law making the appropriation. Mr. Springer said the appropriation for the great railroads, but he did not add that two of the great railroads only have up to this time had any appreciable share of the appropriation. Mr. Robeson's remarks were drawn out by a statement of Mr. Caswell that the Postmaster-General did not intend to make any new starting points, but to hold on to New York as the great center of the universe.

THE PUBLIC PRINTING.

A new Public Printer has been appointed, and this is a local event in Washington that is considered of quite as much importance, by fifteen hundred employees, as the election of a President. The new printer, Mr. Robeson, is a native of New York, and is a member of the cabinet. Important changes are expected in the management and personnel of the office. Since the war, the public printing has cost the government not less than \$500,000. The government printing office is by far the largest establishment of the kind in the world, and a more careful management of it would save more than a million annually to the government. The main reason of the immense outlay lies in the fact of the practice of Congress ordering the printing of voluminous and entirely worthless documents, that find their way by cart loads, to the pulp mills.

THE WHISKY LOBBY.

The whisky merchant princes from all the large cities, have been hovering about Congress for weeks, urging the passage of a bill to extend indefinitely the time that whisky can remain in bond. By means and methods best known to the whisky lobbyists, they have made such headway that they claim a majority in the Senate in favor of their bill. The effect of this measure will be to reduce very seriously the revenues of the government. It is believed that the President will veto the bill, if it shall be passed in the shape desired by the whisky lobby.

BOARD OF HEALTH—MONTHLY MEETING.

The City Board of Health held its regular monthly meeting last Monday night at the office of Dr. J. McD. Massie, Doctors Herring and Beaumont and Alderman Campbell present—Mayor Howell and Dr. Massie being unavoidably absent, much routine business was laid over.

It was ordered that the Sanitary Inspector be instructed to again inspect all premises during the present month and report the results. Dr. Beaumont, Health Officer, submitted the following monthly report to the Board, which giving, as it does, a report of the general health of the city, and a clear, detailed account of the late small-pox case, which came under his immediate care and attention, we deem of sufficient interest and importance to the general public to give it a place in full in our columns:

On the Board of Health.—During the last month the general health of the town has suffered only from a continuance of measles and whooping cough, both of which seem to have been eliminated and are now subsiding. But for the presence of these two diseases in epidemic form, the community might be said to be in a remarkably healthful condition. Had we the means for showing it, it is thought the mortality report for the month past of this year would have been very favorable exhibit both of diseases and their results. At our last meeting it was ordered that a very favorable exhibit both of diseases and their results. At our last meeting it was ordered that a very favorable exhibit both of diseases and their results. At our last meeting it was ordered that a very favorable exhibit both of diseases and their results.

By order of the Board of Health the quarantine placed over the occupants of the cabins in which the late small-pox case broke out, was declared ended on last Wednesday, all danger of any spread of the disease being long since past. Clarksville is to be congratulated on her lucky escape from this hideous disease, and our country friends can now come to see us with impunity.

A MAN in Memphis the other day brought suit against a woman for \$250, which he had expended in presents and given to her while engaged to her. She accepted the presents but soon after gave him the g. b., and married another man, hence the suit.

STRAWBERRIES are making their appearance in our market.

On the morning of the 17th day of the month the Health Officer was summoned by the chief policeman to what he called a suspicious case of sickness on the premises known as Kossow's factory. The man known as once responded to and a negro man was found occupying, together with a woman and her several children, the middle room of the brick row of cabins on the lot named, and situated immediately on Front street. The room was either side of that occupied by the sick man, and was inhabited by families of negroes, men, women and children. Another brick house on the same lot stands removed from the row about fifty feet, and on the same line to the north. The last alone has entrance from the street direct, but each of the other rooms has a window opening on the street.

Upon investigation it was found that the sick man had, a few days before, returned from a roving trip South, visiting New Orleans and traveling by way of the River to Cairo in his route and thence to Clarksville. A personal examination of the man showed him to be ill of small-pox, which was at once declared, and all necessary measures to prevent the spread of the disease were immediately enforced by the Board of Health.

All persons residing on the premises were placed under quarantine and were promptly vaccinated or re-vaccinated; a yellow flag was hung from the street window of the center room of the row, and the sick man removed as provided could be made—was about 5 o'clock in the evening—to a house of a single room two miles from the city. Notwithstanding this, however, so situated as to endanger no one, the sick man and his nurse were removed to the same room. Both went back to the same room whence they were removed and the temporary pest house burned to the ground. Consequently it became necessary to procure other quarters, and next day tents were procured, set up on the uninclosed property of the Greenback, and the sick man, which was cheerfully granted for that purpose. To one of these the sick man was conveyed on the night of the 20th, and the nurse accompanied him and remained with him to the end, occupying another tent. 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